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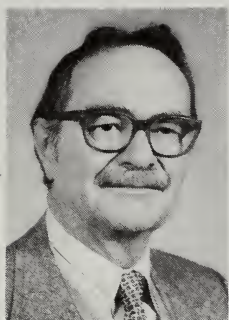
1990 W.O. Atwater Memorial Lecture

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Nutrition: The Science and the Practice
Reflections and Directions
by Dr. Alfred E. Harper

4:45 p.m., April 3, North Salon
Ramada Renaissance Hotel-Techworld
9th and K Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

sponsored by
The Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
in cooperation with
The American Institute of Nutrition



Alfred Edwin Harper is E.V. McCollum Professor of Nutrition and currently holds joint appointments in biochemistry and nutritional sciences in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Harper is an internationally recognized authority on the metabolism of amino acids and a persuasive advocate of the need for science-based public health policy. He is no stranger to controversies on diet and health, having testified several times before Congressional committees to support the dissemination of sound nutritional knowledge and development of good nutrition practice. As chairman of the National Academy of Sciences' Food and Nutrition Board, he oversaw the formulation of the 1974 U.S. Recommended Dietary Allowances.

Born in Canada, Dr. Harper received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in plant science from the University of Alberta. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin under Dr. C.A. Elvehjem. Following postdoctoral work at the University of Cambridge, England, he returned to Wisconsin in 1956 to initiate a research program on amino acid nutrition and metabolism.

In 1961, Dr. Harper moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as professor of nutrition, but in 1965 returned to Wisconsin as professor of biochemistry. From 1968 until 1982, he was chairman of the new Department of Nutritional Sciences there. In 1986, he was Heath Clark Lecturer at the University of London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Harper has served on advisory committees of the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Research Council, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Nutrition Foundation.

He is a member of professional organizations in nutrition, biochemistry, and physiology in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom and has served on the editorial boards of several journals. He was 1970-71 president of the American Institute of Nutrition and 1985-86 president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Dr. Harper's many honors include the Borden Award (1965) and the C.A. Elvehjem Award (1987) of the American Institute of Nutrition and the Distinguished Service Award of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (1989).

The W.O. Atwater Memorial Lectureship was established in 1968 by the Agricultural Research Service to honor the memory of a great scientist and to recognize scientists who have made unique contributions toward improving the diets of people around the globe.

Wilber Olin Atwater (1844-1907) was the foremost pioneer in nutrition research and education in the United States, and he was USDA's first chief of nutrition investigations. He is generally considered the father of modern human nutrition in this country because of his early research on nutrients, proteins, and food composition.

The Agricultural Research Service, the principal scientific research agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helps provide knowledge and technology for the benefit of American farmers and consumers. The research includes promoting optimum human health and well-being through improved nutrition and family resource management.

The American Institute of Nutrition is the primary professional organization of nutrition research scientists in the United States. The Society was established in 1928 to develop and extend knowledge of nutrition and to facilitate personal contact between investigators in nutrition and related fields of interest. Most members of the Institute are university-based, basic researchers. Members are nominated and elected by their fellow scientists on the basis of demonstrated research competence and productivity in the field of experimental nutrition.

Previous Lecturers:

1989, Helen A. Guthrie, Professor and Head, Nutrition Department, The Pennsylvania State University, before the Society for Nutrition Education

1988, John E. Kinsella, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Food Chemistry and General Foods Distinguished Professor of Food Science, Cornell University, before the Institute of Food Technologists

1987, Malden C. Nesheim, Director, Division of Nutrition, Cornell University, before the American Institute of Nutrition at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

1986, Elsie Widdowson, Department of Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge England, before the Joint Meeting of the American Institute of Nutrition, American Society of Clinical Nutrition, and Canadian Society of Nutrition Science

1985, Mark Hegsted, Professor of Nutrition, New England Regional Primate Research Center, before the American Institute of Nutrition

1984, Harold H. Sandstead, Director, North Atlantic Area, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, before the American Dietetic Association

1983, George H. Beaton, Professor of Nutrition Science, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, before the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress

1982, Edwin M. Foster, Director, Food Research Institute, University of Wisconsin, before the Institute of Food Technologists

1981, Joaquin Cravioto, Professor of Pediatrics and Scientific Director, National Institute for Children's Health Sciences and Technology, Mexico City, before the International Congress of Nutrition

1980, Ancel Keys, Professor, Division of Epidemiology, University of Minnesota, before the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress

1979, Hector F. DeLuca, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, before the American Institute of Nutrition

1978, Robert E. Olson, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, St. Louis University, before the American College of Physicians

1977, Nevin S. Scrimshaw, Institute Professor and Head of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, before the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress

1976, Emil M. Mrak, Chancellor Emeritus, University of California at Davis, before the American Chemical Society

1975, William J. Darby, President, The Nutrition Foundation, Inc., before the American Dietetic Association

1974, J. George Harrar, President Emeritus, Rockefeller Foundation, before the American Association for the Advancement of Science

1973, Marina v.N. Whitman, Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh, before The American Home Economics Association

1971, Jean Mayer, Professor of Nutrition and Lecturer on the History of Public Health, Harvard University, before the National Biological Congress

1970, Philip Handler, President, National Academy of Sciences, and Chairman of the National Research Council, before the International Congress of Food Science and Technology

1969, Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Director, Institute for Muscle Research, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, before the American Chemical Society

1968, Artturi I. Virtanen, Director, Biochemical Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland, before the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

